Summer Holidays in Denmark- Amelia Connor

It has been almost 9 months since I touched down in Denmark; land of the Vikings and home to our Princess Mary. This is my first report and if I had 100 pages I wouldn't be able to tell you everything I have been up to, so I will just tell you of my adventures in the summer holidays.

For me the summer holidays started almost a month and a half earlier than the rest of my Danish friends as I departed on the best tour of my life; Euro Tour. This tour took place from the 15th of May until the 1st of June. This tour included 3 tour busses, 150 teenagers and more than 12 nationalities. The tour included stopovers in Berlin, Germany; Prague, The Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; Lido de Jisolo, Venice, Verona and San Remo, Italy; Monaco, Avignon, Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam, Arnhem; Holland. This 18 day adventure was filled of fun and it was so sad to say goodbye to every destination. We saw all the important sites and I cannot wait until I go back to all of those places in the near future, experiencing Europe with 149 or so exchange students from all over the world was definitely an incredible journey, which I will never be able to experience again. Undeniably I will never forget this amazing trip.

The week after Euro tour ended I moved families for the first time and I must admit that it was a very difficult transition as I had become very close with my host brother and my host parents, but I soon realized that not only was I moving families, I was moving forward in my journey of being an exchange student. My summer holidays were spent not only in Denmark but also in Poland and Germany. My host family also own two summer houses located in different areas of Denmark so we spent a few weeks there. I have been lucky enough to see most of Denmark and almost most of Germany, thanks to my wonderful second family. I was lucky enough to experience skiing inside a fake mountain snow ski park.

My host family in Germany, near the border of Poland.

My host parents thought that I would be a great idea for me to learn how to snowboard before my next family takes me to Norway to ski for a week, this turned into one of the hardest things I have ever tried to do, considering I am from Queensland where there is only sun. I was also spoiled enough to be taken to one of the biggest theme parks in Europe; Hyde Park in Germany which just happens to be home to the steepest wooden roller coaster in the world.

Also over the summer break I attended a music festival in Århus (Orehus) and got to see one of my childhood bands perform live…Aqua. It was amazing to see them as I was close to the stage… I never thought I would have ever been able to see this particular band. It was extremely exhilarating and also another unforgettable moment.

Me and my host family again at Hyde Park.

So then after about 15 weeks holiday it was time to start school again…although I wasn't really looking forward to saying goodbye to sleep-ins and big adventures I was excited to be at school again, talking Danish with my friends and socializing with the kids at my Gymnasium. This year is a stressful year for my classmates as they are in the 2nd year, where they have to study hard so that they will be prepared for 3rd year. My class majors in English and music but also study Greek mythology, biology, history, geography, physical education, and Spanish. In Australia I had never tried Spanish and I must say I have learned to love it even though it is extremely difficult.

As for my Danish, I feel quite proud of myself for being able to understand an entire new language. When I first arrived, my families would speak in Danish and I had no idea of what they were saying…now not only do I understand but I am able to reply and write in Danish also. I go to language school twice a week and take tests every 3 months...it is so hard to believe that I am in a country where English is not their first language…yet I understand…it's still totally unbelievable. It's also a little frightening when you go to speak English to an exchange friend and it comes out all wrong, you can't think of the right words or your sentence structure is all wrong… It's so amusing.

This Sunday I move families for the very last time, and I am still coming to terms with the fact that my exchange is almost at an end. I will have 3 months until I return home when I move and I am not entirely sure that I am ready for this year to end just yet. I currently call Denmark my home and although I miss all of my friends and family at home, I have become a totally new person since arriving almost 9 months ago. I have experienced things that some people can only dream of and I have learnt so many new ways of living. The friends that I have made whilst being on this journey of a life time will stay my friends throughout the rest of my life and I believe that I have both my club and district at home to that but also my club and district here in Denmark. Although I must admit that I am ready for the hot hot weather and no more waking up to cold drizzly days.